

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 have been cancelled. Claims 22-33 have been added to the application and are currently pending. Claims 22, 25 and 26 are the independent claims.

### **Claims 22-25 Are Allowable.**

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner indicated that previously presented claims 8-10 and 18 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form. Applicants have provided new claims 22-25, which correspond one-for-one to cancelled claims 8-10 and 18, except that the new claims have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of the respective base claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-25 are in condition for allowance.

### **Claims 26-33 Are Allowable Over the Cited References.**

To more accurately define the invention, Applicants have added new claims 26-33 to the application. Applicants respectfully submit that these new claim are patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,539,877 to Winokur, et al. ("Winokur") and U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0070115 to Nguyen, et al. ("Nguyen"), either alone or in combination. For example, independent claim 26 includes the limitation, "assembling said plurality of device error states into a variable-length error record associated with the error condition." Neither of the cited references disclose this feature. Applicants thus respectfully submit that, for at least this reason, claims 26-33 are patentable over the cited references and should be allowed.


## Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. A timely Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any aspect of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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